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Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this

resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.

The Texas Water Symposium Series provides perspectives from policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders. Join us as we explore the complex issues and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century. Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

## May 18, 2016 Economic and Conservation Perspectives on Protected Species: If you can't cook 'em, eat 'em or shoot 'em, what the heck good are they?

Doors open at 6:30, Program 7:00 – 8:30 pm <u>Texas Tech University Center at Junction</u>. Packard Hall North building, Junction, TX.

## Moderator:

Weir Labatt, former Texas Water Development Board, Edwards Aquifer Authority Board

## Panelists:

Robert Gulley J.D., Ph.D., - Texas Comptroller's Office, Director of Economic Growth and Endangered Species Management

Adam Zerrenner - Field Supervisor with the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Tom Arsuffi Ph.D., - Director of the Llano River Field Station at Texas Tech University in Junction

Texas is one of the nation's most biologically diverse states, and home to one of the world's largest economies. In addition to state and federally recognized endangered species, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has identified over 1,300 species of greatest conservation need—those species that, due to limited distributions and/or declining populations, face the threat of extirpation or extinction but lack legal protection.

Please join our panel of experts as they explore the history and practical application of endangered species protections in the Texas Hill Country and beyond, and seek to answer the question, "What are the consequences of not protecting rare or declining species?"